



Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/

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THOMPSON AND MEEK: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FAILS TO MEET HUNDREDS OF DEADLINES

Washington, DC — Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee, and Congressman Kendrick B. Meek, Ranking Member of the Management, Integration, and Oversight Subcommittee, submitted the attached letter today to the new Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, identifying more than 125 report deadlines that the Department has missed or that are pending. The letter requested that the Secretary provide an accounting of why the Department has failed to meet these deadlines and when the Committee can expect to receive the reports.

“We have asked for copies of completed reports directly related to the Department’s mission, including those dealing with the USA PATRIOT Act,” said Congressman Thompson. **“To our understanding, not one of the reports has been given to the Committee. That means either the reports aren’t finished, or the Department isn’t adequately assisting the Committee in its oversight efforts. I am confident that Secretary Chertoff will remedy this situation,”** he added.

Democrats on the Homeland Security Committee have made several attempts to obtain copies of reports required of the Department since 2002; several reports have pending due dates. Many of the reports are critical in developing terrorism prevention and response strategies.

“Now that we are a permanent Committee responsible for providing principal oversight of the Department, we need to have a clear picture of where the Department stands in complying with the law. ‘The Department is hindering our ability to adequately protect the American public,’ stated Congressman Meek.

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